



TRICARE Enrollment - Active Duty Sponsors Who Plan to Retire

This information applies to active duty military sponsors who are retiring and will transition to civilian status. Military sponsors who plan on retiring should be aware of several events that will affect themselves, and their family members' future TRICARE enrollment. Air Force Instruction 36-2102, Base-Level Relocation Procedures, requires the Military Personnel Flight (MPF) Relocations Element to contact sponsors 90-days prior to approved retirement dates. This event instructs sponsors to visit the MPF customer service regarding issue of the DD Form 2, United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired). In addition, the MPF relocation personnel inform sponsors to report to the Military Treatment Facility (MTF) to obtain information regarding retirement physicals and TRICARE medical entitlements.

Sponsors who complete out-processing for impending retirement need to understand that while they are permitted to obtain a DD Form 2 (Retired) ID card up to 120-days in advance of the actual retirement date, the new ID cards for their family members will reflect the retirement status, and the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) will report them as actually "retired" to the TRICARE contractor. Consequently, the TRICARE contractor will expect an up front payment of the annual premium before any future appointment under TRICARE-Prime can be made, even though the sponsor has not yet retired.

If a sponsor plans to depart the area of assignment early on terminal leave and relocate to an area without TRICARE-Prime availability, it may be in the sponsor's best interest to obtain a retired ID card for his/herself and family members early. However, if the sponsor plans to remain in the area or relocate to area with a TRICARE-Prime contractor, and wants to continue with TRICARE-Prime into retirement, then it may be in their best interest not to accept the retired ID cards early. TRICARE-Prime is a voluntary insurance program. As with any other voluntary insurance, customers are expected to enroll no later than the 20th of the month prior to effective date. Failure to apply early for continued TRICARE-Prime insurance after retirement would result in the first month of retirement being covered by TRICARE-Standard only and not TRICARE-Prime or TRICARE-Extra. Questions regarding TRICARE enrollment (Prime, Extra, or Standard) should be directed to the MTF Health Benefits Advisor (HBA) or the TRICARE Service Center. Questions concerning DEERS enrollment and ID card issue should be directed to the MPF customer service.